Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

18 October 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 15, 2007

Conditions Report

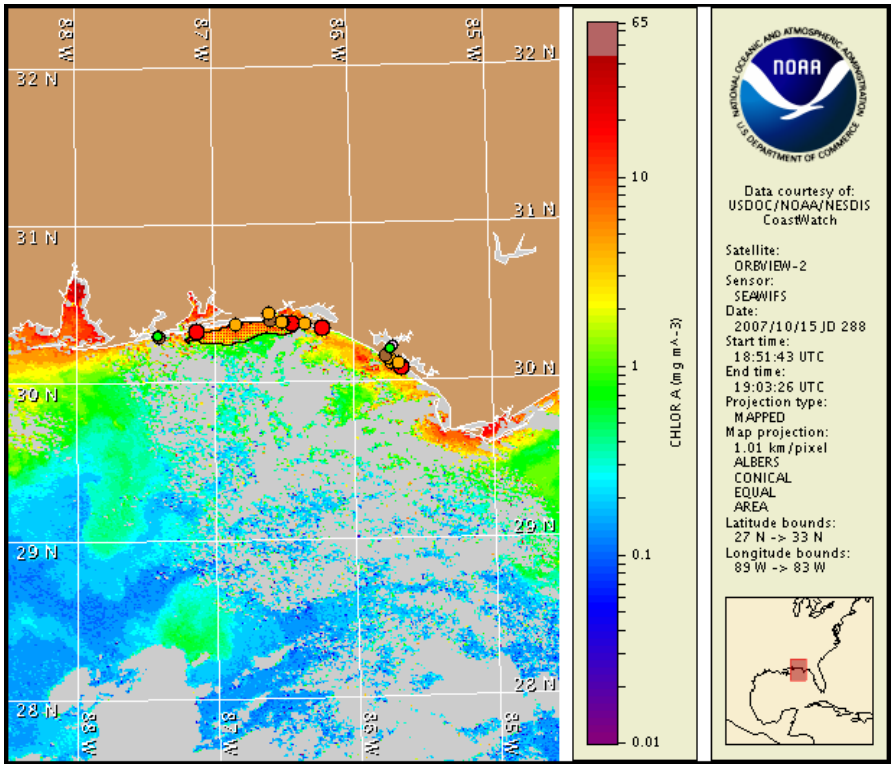
NW Florida: A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from Bay County, Florida to Baldwin County, Alabama. Patchy moderate impacts are possible today, Friday, and Sunday for Baldwin County, with patchy very low impacts possible Saturday. Patchy high impacts are possible from Escambia to Walton County today, Friday, and Sunday, with patchy low impacts possible Saturday. Patchy moderate to high impacts are possible for bay regions of Bay County through Sunday, with patchy very low impacts possible along the coast.

Analysis

The harmful algal bloom along the Florida Panhandle has intensified and is currently onshore from Bay County, FL to Baldwin County, AL. Medium concentrations of *K. brevis* have been identified in Baldwin County (10/16, AL Dept. of Public Health) and Santa Rosa County (10/15, FWRI), with high concentrations found in Escambia, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties (10/14-16, FWRI). Chlorophyll levels remain elevated in patches along the coast, as well as an offshore patch west of Bay County, centered at 30°8'54"N 85°56'21"W based on imagery from 10/15. Reports of fish kills and respiratory irritation have been received over the past few days from Escambia, Okaloosa, and Bay Counties. Onshore winds most of the weekend will likely increase impacts along the coast. Minimal transport of the bloom is expected through Sunday.

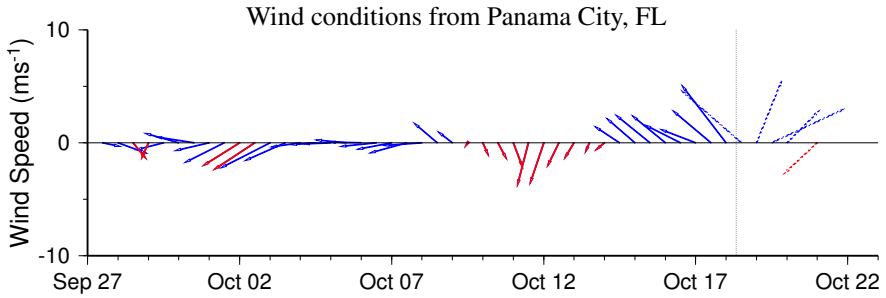
* Due to technical difficulties, the inset shown on Page 2 does not currently reflect all areas of high chlorophyll concentration. *

-Allen, Fisher



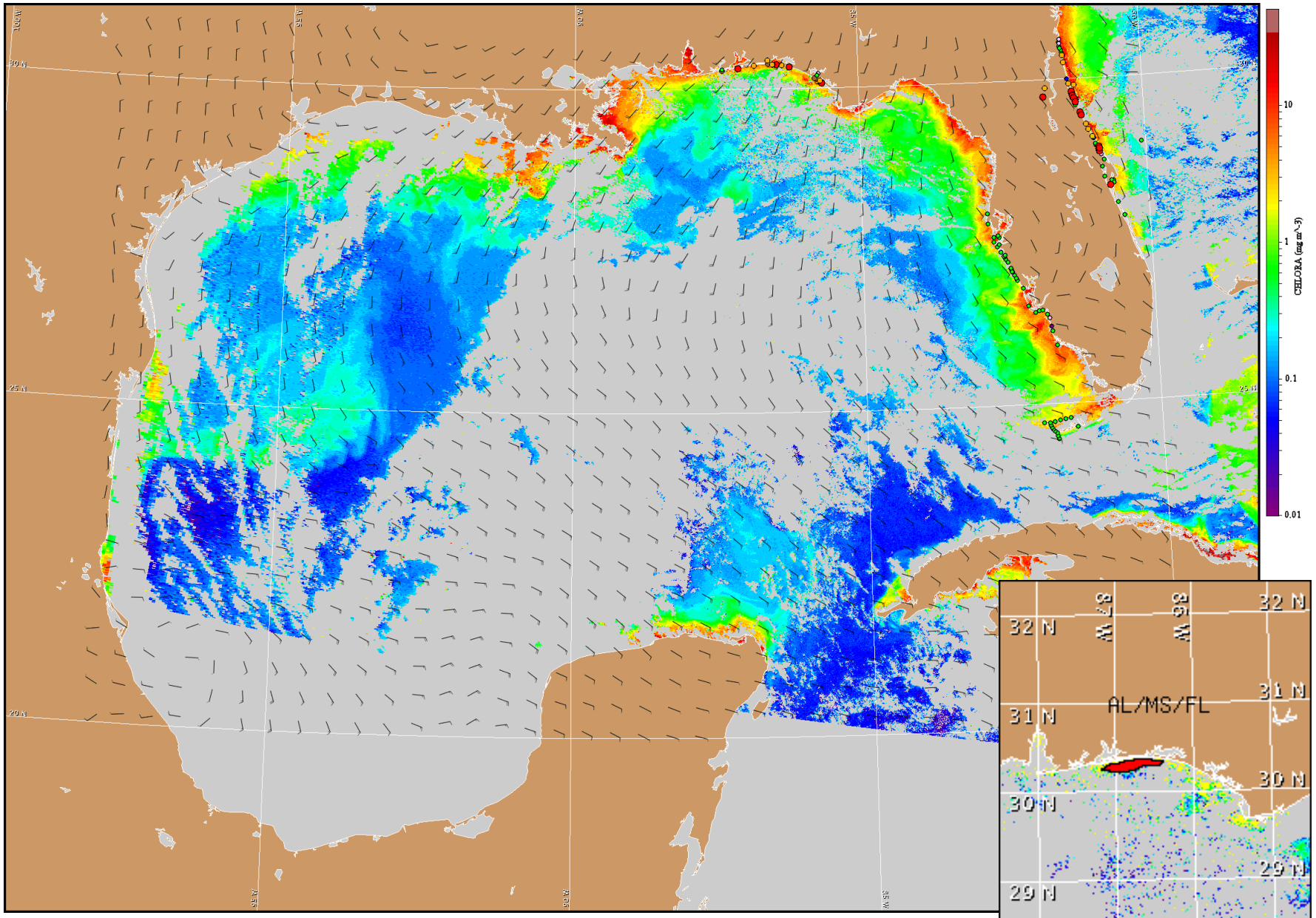
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 8 to 17 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

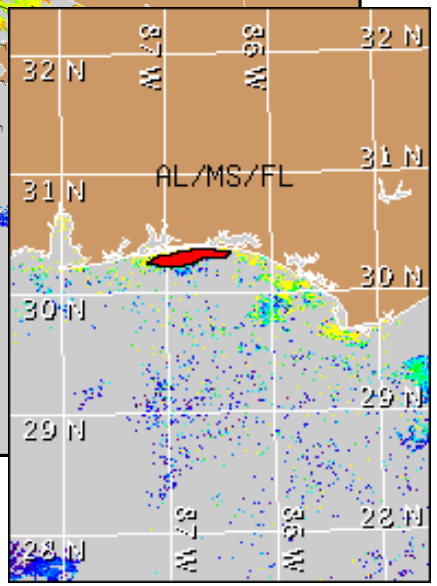


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

NW Florida: Southeasterly winds today at 10-15 knots (5-8 m/s) becoming southerly tonight and tomorrow. Southwest winds Friday night becoming northeasterly by Saturday and southeasterly by Sunday at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s).

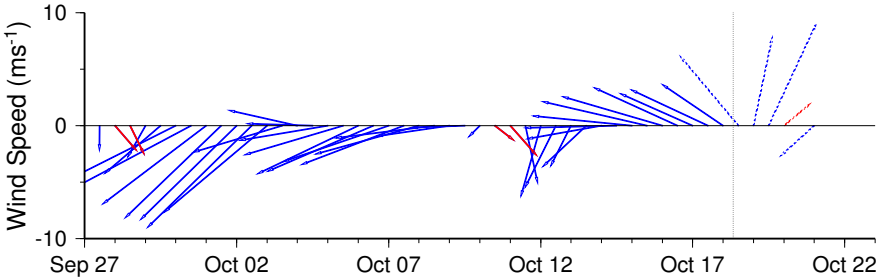


Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 19, 2007 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from October 8 to 17 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Tyndall AFB Tower C



Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL